(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a study in the matter has been conducted by some Authority for transportation purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of the Centre to develop IWT in Orissa to improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three waterways namely Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam, along with Uydogmandal and Champakara canals have been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation. Three more waterways namely (i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna, (ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi delta and (iii) River Barak in Assam are being processed for declaration as new National Waterways.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive study of various transport modes was conducted by the Planning Commission through National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC). In its report submitted in 1980 it is mentioned that the navigable waterways (including waterways navigable by country boats) extend to 14,544 kms out of which 5685 kms were suitable for mechanized crafts. IWAI also undertakes techno-economic feasibility studies of various individual waterways to assess their potential for development and declaration as national waterways. Some individual studies have also been conducted by State Governments.

(e) The proposed National Waterway-5 comprising East Coast Canal along with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta includes 532 km of waterway in the State of Orissa. It will lead to opening up of the hinterland and faster development of the economy of Orissa.

Funds sanctioned for NHs in Bihar

2684. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government to Bihar for development of National Highways/State Highways and to connect the villages with the National Highways during the last three years; and

(b) whether the funds allocated have been properly used by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The allocation made by Union Government to Government of Bihar and expenditure by State Government against this allocation for development of National Highways in State of Bihar are given hereunder:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	73.44	52.98
2005-06	78.99	66.29
2006-07	119.07	106.17

Under Central Road Fund (CRF) and Economic Importance (EI) & Inter State Connectivity (ISC) schemes the accrual/allocation and release to State Government for development of state roads was as under:

Year	Accrual/Allocation under CRF and EI & ISC schemes (Rs. in crore)	Release under CRF and EI & ISC schemes (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	23.91	6.28
2005-06	46.28	21.83
2006-07	42.67	24.38

Connection of villages with National Highways is not within the purview of this Ministry.

(b) Yes Sir.